The Black Duck Historical Fiction By Janet Taylor

The Female Figure in Contemporary Historical FictionThe Things We Don't SayA Guide

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from the other boleyn girl to fingersmith this collection explores the popularity of female centred historical novels in recent years it asks how these representations are influenced by contemporary gender politics and whether they can be seen as part of a wider feminist project to recover women s history

excerpt from a guide to historical fiction tales has written an able defence of the reading of this kind of romance to which i have little to add except by the way of emphasis historical fiction is not history but it is often better than history a fine historical painting a pageant or a play may easily teach more and carry a deeper impression than whole chapters of description and analysis esmond and tom fones are indispensable adjuncts to lecky scott and dumas will always have a larger history class than any two regular historians you could name even a second rate historical novel may have ample excuse for existence but a good one good that is merely as a story though chronology may be at fault and facts inaccurately stated will probably succeed in making a period live in the imagination when text books merely give us dry bones about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

the historical novel has been one of the most important forms of women s reading and writing in the twentieth century yet it has been consistently under rated and critically neglected in the first major study of british women writers use of the genre diana wallace tracks its development across the century she combines a comprehensive survey with detailed readings of key writers including naomi mitchison georgette heyer sylvia townsend warner margaret irwin jean plaidy mary renault philippa gregory and pat barker

emphasizing an appreciation of historical fiction in its many forms and focusing on what fans enjoy this guide provides a fresh take on a durable genre

in the half century before walter scott s waverley dozens of popular novelists produced historical fictions for circulating libraries this book examines eighty five popular historical novels published between 1762 and 1813 looking at how the conventions of the genre developed through a process of imitation and experimentation

eleanor porter is a major new voice in historical fiction tim claytonwhere will her loyalty lead her once accused of witchcraft martha spicer is now free from the shadow of the gallows and lives a safe and happy life with her husband jacob but when jacob heads north to accompany his master he warns martha to keep her healing gifts a secret to

keep herself safe to be a good wife martha loves jacob but without him there to protect her she soon comes under the suspicious eye of the wicked steward boult who s heard of her talent and forces her to attend to him if she refuses he promises to destroy the good life she has built for herself with jacob desperate and alone martha faces a terrible decision stay and be beholden to boult or journey north to find jacob who is reported to have been killed the road ahead is filled with danger but also the promise of a brighter future and where her gifts once threatened to be her downfall might they now be the very thing that sets martha free the brilliant follow up to eleanor porter s first novel of love betrayal superstition and fear in elizabethan england a story of female courage ingenuity and determination this is perfect for fans of tracy chevalier eleanor porter is a major new voice in historical fiction with her beautiful use of language and compelling storytelling she conjures the past with a vividness that lingers in the mind long after the final page tim clayton praise for the wheelwright s daughter it s a gripping story and such accomplished writing i really enjoyed every moment of working on it yvonne holland editor of philippa gregory and tracy chevalier a brilliant debut novel an interesting read and an impressive debut novel a wonderfully written story a skilfully crafted story of love betrayal superstition and fear in 16th century england this is a story of courage trust betrayal and love a great historical novel i loved

let me take you into an old fashioned country house built by architects of the early reign of james the first it had all the peculiarities i might almost say the oddities of that particular epoch in the building art chimneys innumerable had it heaven only knows what rooms they ventilated but their name must have been legion the windows were not fewer in number and much more irregular for the chimneys were gathered together in some sort of symmetrical arrangement while the windows were scattered all over the various faces of the building with no apparent arrangement at all heaven knows also what rooms they lighted or were intended to light for they very little served the purpose being narrow and obstructed by the stone mullions of the elizabethan age each too had its label of stone superincumbent and projecting from the brick work which might leave the period of construction somewhat doubtful but the gables decided the fact they too were manifold for although the house had been built all at once it seemed nevertheless to have been erected in detached masses and joined together as best the builder could so that there were no less than six gables turning north south east and west with four right angles and flat walls between them these gables were surmounted topped as it were by a triangular wall somewhat higher than the acute roof and this wall was constructed with a row of steps coped with freestone on either side of the ascent as if the architect had fancied that some man or statue would one day or another have to climb up to the top of the pyramid and take his place upon the crowning stone it was a gloomy old edifice the bricks had become discolored the livery of age yellow and gray lichen was upon it daws hovered round the

chimney tops rooks passed cawing over it on the way to their conventicle hard by no swallow built under the eaves and the trees as if repelled by its stern cold aspect retreated from it on three sides leaving it alone on its own flat ground like a moody man amidst a gay society on the fourth side indeed an avenue that is to say two rows of old elms crept cautiously up to it in a winding and sinuous course as if afraid of approaching too rapidly and at the distance of some five or six hundred yards clumps of old trees beeches and ever green oaks and things of sombre foliage dotted the park only enlivened by here and there a herd of deer now and then a milk maid a country woman going to church or market a peasant or at game keeper might be seen traversing the dry brown expanse of grass and but rarely deviating from a beaten path which led from one stile over the path wall to another it was all sombre and monotonous the very spirit of dulness seemed to hang over it and the clouds themselves the rapid sportive clouds free denizens of the sky and playmates of the wind and sunbeam appeared to grow dull and tardy as they passed across the wide space open to the view and to proceed with awe and gravity like timid youth in the presence of stern old age enough of the outside of the house let me take you into the interior reader and into one particular room not the largest and the finest but one of the highest it was a little oblong chamber with one window which was ornamented the only ornament the chamber had with a decent curtain of red and white checked linen on the side next the door and between it and the western wall was a small bed a walnut tree table and two or three chairs were near the window in one corner stood a washing stand not very tidily arranged in another chest of drawers and opposite the fire place hung from nails driven into the wall two or three shelves of the same material as the table each supporting a row of books which by the dark black covers brown edges and thumbed corners seemed to have a right to boast of some antiquity and much use at the table as you perceive there is seated a boy of some fifteen years of age with pen and ink and paper and an open book if you look over his shoulder you will perceive that the words are latin yet he reads it with ease and facility and seeks no aid from the dictionary it is the cato major of cicero heaven what a book for a child like that to read boyhood studying old age

the thrilling story of the greatest general in roman history in the name of rome scipio africanus conquered the hard won empires of carthage and of alexander the great now beset in his old age by the menacing political movements of cato scipio details the epic story of his life from the earliest days of his education to the great battles he won in service to his home yet all the strands of his remarkable tale are anchored flowing from and towards the confrontation between him and his great rival his one and only equal hannibal this novel of love and betrayal recreates the life and times of a military genius who discovers he is only a man and is perfect for fans of simon scarrow ben kane and i claudius praise for ross leckie leckie writes unflinchingly of this world of blood battle and atrocity sunday telegraph by turns lucid enlightening and thrilling this

is the historical novel at its best historical novel society masterful even better than hannibal allan massie

a collection of three historical novels by john anthony miller now available in one volume all that glitters in 1940 belgium camille bonnet takes on the impossible task of stealing valuable industrial diamonds from an antwerp bank before the germans can obtain them her escape sets off a thrilling chase involving allies enemies and a complex cast of characters as she navigates through dangerous territory camille must deliver the diamonds to paris to aid the allied war effort while untangling friend from foe john anthony miller s all that glitters is an action packed historical thriller filled with love honor intrigue and betrayal for those who dare in this historical thriller set in 1961 east berlin kirstin beck and american writer tony marino hatch a dangerous plan for kirstin to escape to the west to reunite with her grandmother with the stasi hot on their heels they enter a world of deception and risk to attain their freedom the minister s wife philadelphia during the american revolution abigail st clair a minister s wife and colonial spy navigates the dangerous political landscape while fighting for a higher purpose and confronting her former lover betrayal love and the human psyche are explored as abigail exposes sordid secrets and defies a ruthless enemy

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